Message Text

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TAGS:ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT:US-CANADIAN MEETING ON BILATERAL ENERGY ISSUES

REF; RAICHT/BUCHANAN TELCON JAN. 31

- 1. CANADIAN EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT GOC IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 10 ON NUMBER OF ISSUES IN ENERGY AREA WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN RECENT MONTHS. MEETING WOULD BE FOLLOW-UP TO INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH HOPPER IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK.
- 2. PROPOSED AGENDA FOR MEETING, WHICH WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO CANADIANS, INCLUDES FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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A. POSSIBLE SWITCHING ARRANGEMENTS -- BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM -- TO ALLEVIATE SUPPLY PROBLEMS CREATED BY CANADIAN

DECISION TO PHASE OUT OIL EXPORTS.

B. CURRENT SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES REGARDING NATURAL GAS EXPORTS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA. FYI: WE WOULD PLAN TO USE THIS OCCASION TO MAKE CLEAR OUR CONCERNS AT PROSPECT THAT CURRENT NEB STUDY OF NATURAL GAS SUPPLY AND DEMAND COULD RESULT IN CANADIAN DECISION TO CURTAIL EXPORTS TO US, IN BREACH OF LONG-TERM CONTRACTS. END FYI.

C. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF COAL. (CANADIANS ALLUDED TO FALL IN COAL EXPORTS TO CANADA IN 1974 AND CLAIMED THAT ONTARIO HYDRO IS HAVING DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING LONG-TERM SUPPLY COMMITMENTS FOR US STEAM COAL, RESULTING IN POSTPONEMENT OF TWO COAL-FIRED ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANTS.)

D. CANADIAN EXPORT TAX ON CRUDE OIL AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. FYI: IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT PROSPECT FOR AN INCREASE IN THE EXPORT TAX ON CRUDE OIL IN THE RANGE OF \$.40 PER BARREL IS GOOD. AN ANNOUNCEMENT COULD TAKE PLACE BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK. END FYI.

3. CANADIANS INFORMED US FEBRUARY 5 THEIR DELEGATION WILL BE LED BY SHOYAMA (EM&R), AND WILL INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, FINANCE AND NEB. KISSINGER

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